

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A spring adapted for rotational action, comprising:

a first member substantially fixably attached to an appliance body member, the first member having an open center area extending through said first member to permit an appliance driving member which rotates in operation to extend freely therethrough, wherein the first member is a lower ring member which substantially encircles the driving member;

a second member spaced apart from the first member and adapted to receive said appliance driving member, wherein when the driving member moves through a selected range of ~~back and forth~~ rotational movement, the second member rotates in response thereto, wherein the second member is an upper disc having a central opening through which the driving member is tightly fitted in such a manner ~~so~~ that as the driving member ~~moves~~ rotates, the second member ~~moves~~ rotates therewith relative to the first member; and

at least two leg members connecting the first and second members, wherein the leg members are constructed and arranged and characterized such that when the driving member moves to end points of its range of ~~back and forth~~ rotational movement, having rotated the second member with the leg members attached thereto, the energy stored in the spring thereby tends to return the spring toward its original center position.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) An article of claim 1, wherein the first member and the second member are substantially parallel and remain substantially parallel during rotation of the spring.

5. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the first member and the second member are non-parallel, such that the second member has both rotational and translational motion in response to movement of the driving member.

6. (original) An article of claim of claim 1, wherein the leg members include three equally spaced leg members.

7. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the movement of the driving member is rotational.

8. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the leg members are straight and tubular.

9. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the leg members are arcuate in configuration.

10. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the leg members bifurcate between the upper and lower members.

11. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the leg members change in size along their length in a preselected manner.

12. (previously presented) An article of claim 1, wherein the second member is smaller in diameter than the first element.

13. (previously presented) An article of claim 1, wherein the leg members and the first member are circular in cross-section.

14. (previously presented) An article of claim 1, wherein the leg members and the first member are elliptical in cross-section.

15. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the leg members are connected to the first member in a slot arrangement, such that the leg members move a short distance to an end of said slot, at which point the leg members begin to twist.

16. (previously presented) An article of claim 1, including connecting members which extend from the first member and include portions thereof which fixedly connect the first member to the appliance body.

17. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the spring has a tubular configuration.

18. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the spring has a conical configuration.

19. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the spring forms part of a head portion of a power toothbrush which includes a fluid line which extends through the spring.

20. (original) An article of claim 1, wherein the spring forms part of a head portion of a power toothbrush and wherein the spring includes connecting members which connect the spring to a handle portion of the toothbrush and elements associated with the connecting members for sensing a load on the spring.

21. (previously presented) An article of claim 20, wherein the spring forms part of a head portion of a power toothbrush and wherein the spring includes a memory means for identifying said head portion and electrically conducting means connecting said memory means to a handle portion of the toothbrush.

22. (previously presented) A spring adapted for rotational action for use in a power toothbrush, comprising:

a driven member which forms part of a head portion of a power toothbrush adapted to receive a driving member from a power toothbrush body member, wherein when the driving member moves through a selected range of movement, the driven member rotates in response thereto;

a seal member positioned between the head portion of the toothbrush and the toothbrush body member; and

at least two leg members extending from the driven member and including connecting members at the ends thereof for connecting the leg member and hence the driven member to the toothbrush body member, wherein the leg members are constructed and arranged and are characterized such that when the driving member moves to an end point of its range of movement, having rotated the driven member and the leg members attached thereto, the energy stored in the spring thereby tends to return the spring toward its original position.

23. (original) An article of claim of claim 22, wherein the leg members include three equally spaced leg members.

24. (original) An article of claim 22, wherein the movement of the driving member is rotational.

25. (original) An article of claim 22, wherein the leg

members are straight and tubular.

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) A spring adapted for rotational action, comprising:

a first member substantially fixably attached to an appliance body member, the first member having an open center area extending through said first member to permit an appliance driving member which rotates in operation to extend freely therethrough, wherein the first member is an upper ring member which substantially encircles the driving member;

a second member spaced apart from the first member and adapted to receive said appliance driving member, wherein when the driving member moves through a selected range of ~~back-and-forth~~ rotational movement, the second member rotates in response thereto, wherein the second member is a lower disc member having a central opening through which the driving member is tightly fitted in such a manner ~~so~~ that as the driving member ~~moves~~ rotates, the second member ~~moves~~ rotates therewith relative to the fixed first member; and

at least two leg members connecting the first and second members, wherein the leg members are constructed and arranged and characterized such that when the driving member moves to end points of its range of ~~back-and-forth~~ rotational movement, having rotated the second member with the leg members attached thereto, the energy stored in the spring thereby tends to return the spring toward its original center position.